(c) at least partially curing the regions that are covered by the one or more embossing dies,

(d) removing the one or more embossing dies, and

(e) curing the at least partially cured regions if necessary to completely cure the at least partially cured regions.

10. (Amended) The substrate according to Claim 9, that is a motor vehicle or a part thereof.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments above be entered before examination of the application. Upon entry of this amendment, the claims pending in this application are claims 1-10.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown with brackets, and inserted material is shown as double underlining.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 with the following:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a process for the decorative design of a lacquered substrate surface and also to the substrates obtained in accordance with the process. The process according to the invention may find application, in particular, in the decorative surface design of vehicle bodies, of the components thereof and also of vehicle parts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14 with the following:

Background of the Invention:

Diverse examples of decorative surface designs are known, in particular, from the domain of automobile lacquering. These include, for example, individual lacquer finishes, for example, effect-producing lacquer finishes, lacquer finishes in special colour tones or lacquer finishes in the form of images, patterns or ornaments, but also the application of appropriately designed adhesive films.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29 with the following:

Summary of the Invention:

The object of the invention is the provision of a process for the decorative design of a lacquered substrate surface. In this connection the process is to permit the generation of

unique and impressive decorative effects, for example in the domain of the lacquering of goods that are manufactured industrially or by handicraft, such as, for example, sports equipment, instrument casings, and in particular in the domain of vehicle lacquering and vehicle-part lacquering. It has been shown that this object can be achieved by coating layer that are not yet cured, these are cured by high-energy radiation, in particular photochemically.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6 with the following:

Detailed Description of the Invention:

Without giving a binding explanation, it is assumed by way of theoretical clarification that the decorative effect, rising for the observer, of the surfaces that have been designed using the process according to the invention arises substantially as a result of diffraction of light and interference on the structures which are generated by means of the embossing dies in the surface of the coating layer which is generated from the curable coating agent. For the observer the places that are provided with the embossing dies during the at least partial curing give rise to differing optical effects, depending on the viewing angle; the observer perceives these effects as decorative elements.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A [P]process for the decorative design of a substrate surface, [characterised in that] comprising:
(a) applying a curable coating agent [is applied] onto the substrate surface to be decorated to form an uncured coating layer,
(b) [and] pressing one or more embossing dies [is/are pressed, in each case with its/their side] exhibiting a

relief [characterised by] having amplitude maxima that are spaced from one another in the range from 100 to 20,000 nm[,] into the uncured coating layer at [the] a place or places to be decorated to form one or more regions that are covered by the one or more embossing dies,
(c) at least partially curing [whereupon at least] the regions that are covered by the one or more embossing [die or] dies [are at least partially cured],
(d) removing [thereafter] the one or more embossing [die or] dies [is/are removed] and[,
in case places are present in the coating layer that are not yet cured, these are completely cured]
(e) curing the at least partially cured regions if necessary to completely cure the at least partially cured regions.

2. (Amended) [P] The process according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein [use is made of a] said coating agent [which] is capable of being cured by irradiation with high-energy radiation [and of], wherein said one or more embossing dies [which] are partially or totally translucent in respect of the high-energy radiation, [whereupon at least] wherein in step (c) the regions that are covered by the one or more embossing [die or] dies are irradiated through the one or more embossing [die or] dies with high-energy radiation, and [thereafter the embossing die or dies is/are removed and, in case places are present in the coating layer that are not yet cured, these are completely cured] wherein said curing in step (e) is by high-energy radiation.

3. (Amended) [P] The process according to Claim 2, [characterised in that use is made of a] wherein said coating agent [which] is capable of being cured by

irradiation with light and said at least partial curing is effected by irradiation with light.

4. (Amended) [P] The process according to Claim 3, [characterised in that] wherein said irradiation is effected with light having a wavelength from 180 to 1,000 nm.

5. (Amended) [P] The process according to Claim 1, [characterised in that use is made of a] wherein said coating agent [which] is capable of being cured by thermal means, and wherein said [at least the regions that are covered by the embossing die or dies are] at least partially [cured thermally, and thereafter the embossing die or dies are removed and, in case places are present in the coating layer that are not yet cured, these are completely cured] curing of step (c) and said curing of step (e) are thermal[ly].

6. (Amended) [P] The process according to [one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, [characterised in that] wherein a transparent coating layer is applied before or after [the complete curing] step (e).

7. (Amended) [P] The process according to [one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, [characterised in that] wherein a transparent film is applied after [the complete curing] step (e).

8. (Amended) [P] The process according to [one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, [characterised in that it] that is implemented for the decoration or inscription of motor vehicles or parts thereof.

9. (Amended) [S] A substrate with a decorative surface or partial surface, [obtained in accordance with the process of one of Claims 1 to 8] formed by a process comprising:
(a) applying a curable coating agent onto the substrate surface to be decorated to form an uncured coating layer,
(b) pressing one or more embossing dies exhibiting a relief having amplitude maxima that are spaced from one another in the range from 100 to 20,000 nm into the uncured coating layer at a place or places to be decorated to form one or more regions that are covered by the one or more embossing dies,
(c) at least partially curing the regions that are covered by the one or more embossing dies,
(d) removing the one or more embossing dies, and
(e) curing the at least partially cured regions if necessary to completely cure the at least partially cured regions.

10. (Amended) [S] The substrate according to Claim 9, [wherein it] that is a motor vehicle or a part[s] thereof.